

Council on Aging Board

Minutes of September 11, 2002 Meeting

In Attendance: Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Al Crommett, Lillian Goodman, Tim Swiss and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager, Friends of the SCC, Inc. representative Phyllis Pearson and CMAA representative Vicki Zwerdling were also present. Bettyann Chamberlin was excused.

1. Chairman's Comments:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:15am. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted by the board.

Paul presented a brief description of Marlboro's new tax exemption policy for seniors, which might offer a model for us to use in trying to help Shrewsbury's seniors to cope with their R.E. tax burdens. Board members were asked to review the material for discussion at the next meeting. Paul will be travelling to Texas for 2 weeks later this month and into October. He suggested that the board members should try to be more supportive of COA program activities.

2. Director's Comments:

Sharon reported that the center would be in use on Friday as part of the town-wide "disaster drill" involving all departments. The elements of the drill under the direction of the fire department are undetermined at this time. Some discussion was held with regard to a small Pharmaceutical grant (\$500) which Sharon has submitted—questions were raised as to the value relative to the effort required for submission, review, etc. The money would be used to prepare forms for screeners.

Sharon is planning to give up the CMACA chair position this month and has started her classes for an advanced degree. She asked the board to provide some help later in evaluating her work.

3. Liaison Reports:

CMAA—Vicki indicated that she would be faxing information to Sharon later. The prescription drug issue seems to be very high priority.

Friends of the SCC, Inc.:-- Phyllis commented that space availability is a continual question for their group. The board noted that the organization has greatly improved in the last year and now deserves some priority in scheduling use of the center.

Shrew. Comm. Part. /Children: Sharon noted that the program is active in 4 schools at present.

Elder Home Care Services of Worc., Inc.:--Betty presented an array of statistics showing the overall activity of the organization but at times

information exchange seems to be an obstacle in handling local situations. Confidentiality regulations may be the cause.

4.Old Business:

Transportation Grant: we are still waiting for a decision on another van while Sharon noted that calls for transportation now represent 70% of total call received.

Big Survey: Return deadline is the 15th, about 200 have been received to date from the 520 sent out.

Health Fair: Lillian reported that committee work has been outstanding—about 30 volunteers have signed up to work on the 27th so far. More help is always welcome.

MCOA Fall Conference: program information is available.

5.New Business:

New High School: dedication is scheduled for the 22nd - tours will be available that day from 3-5 pm.

Fall Festival: Parade will start at the town hall this year—assembly promises to be interesting!

New Screenings: Sharon has been in discussions with the Mass.College of Pharmacy interns working locally about further screening being done at the center. No decision was made.

6. Other:--The board has repeatedly been frustrated over the past 3 months with newsletter mailing list problems. Exploring possible solutions with the MIS department were discussed. Paul agreed to draft a letter to MIS about the key points of the discussion.

*Respectfully submitted,
John Concordia, Secretary*